Import of Electronic Switching System

*177. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has developed an electronic switching system (ESS) which would cost around Rs. 4000 and is capable or handling 16000 lines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are going to import identical kit from French Multinational Corporation at the rate of Rs. 9000 per kit;

(c) if so, whether in view of (a) above the import move is proposed to be dropped; and

(d) whether import of this item is likely to render over 13,000 workers jobless ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS) (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) The C-DOT Digital Switching system capable of handling upto 16,000 ports is under development by the C-DOT. Firm indications of the cost per line would be known after the design is completed and the commercial production is started.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal, at present, under consideration for import of identical kits from any French Multinational Corporation.

(d) Does not arise.

Genetic Vaccine to Control Rabies, Plague and Cholera

*178. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that diseases like rabies, plague and cholera cannot be checked on the same basis as eradication of smallpox; and

(b) if so, whether new genetic vaccines can help in tackling these diseases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that diseases like rabies and cholera cannot be checked on the same basis as eradication of smallpox because the epidemiological features of these diseases are different As regards Plague, presently there are no cases in the country

(b) The genetically engineered vaccines for control of Rabies and Cholera are in the phase of research and development at the present moment.

Art objects stolen and missing from National Museum

179. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : SHRI SHARAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the art objects stolen and found missing from the National Museum (with prices) during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government in regard thereto and what action has been taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) The following two art objects have been found missing from the National Museum :

(i) Golconda Rumal—This art piece has been found missing since 1983. It was purchased in a lot comprising 116 textiles. The total book value of these 116 textiles as entered in the Accession Register of National Museum is Rs. 35,000/-.

(ii) 'Munal' of Hukkah—This tiny mouthpiece of Hukkah belonging to Indian Museum, Calcutta was found missing in 1985 when the Hukkah was being sent to USA in an exhibition under the Festival of India. The Hukkah was insured and the value of the tiny mouthpiece has been estimated at Rs. 5,000/-.